



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rick DeVitor or Rick.DeVitor@noaa.gov  
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

March 12, 2013

FB13-020

## NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on Proposed Actions for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic

*Comment Period Ends May 13, 2013*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on proposed actions in Amendment 28 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 28). The notice of availability published in the *Federal Register* on March 12, 2013 (78 FR 15672). Comments must be submitted by **May 13, 2013**.

The actions in Amendment 28, if implemented, would establish (1) *a process* to determine if a fishing season will occur each year, which would include specification of the allowable harvest and season lengths for the commercial and recreational sectors; (2) *an equation* to determine the annual catch limit amount for each sector; and (3) *management measures* if fishing is allowed. It is important to note that the proposed actions, if they are implemented, only specify a process to determine *if* a season would occur.

### ***Process to Determine if a Season is to Occur***

If NOAA Fisheries determines that the estimated landings and dead discards that occurred in the previous year are equal to or greater than the acceptable biological catch for the current year, no harvest would be allowed and the annual catch limit would remain equal to zero. However, if NOAA Fisheries determines that the previous year's estimated landings and dead discards are less than the acceptable biological catch, then the annual catch limit would be set to the amount of harvest that may be allowed for the current year.

### ***Equation to Determine the Allowable Harvest***

If a season is allowed, NOAA Fisheries would calculate the season length for each sector based on an evaluation of historical harvest levels and fishing effort. The proposed equation is contained in Section 2.0 of the amendment.

### ***Management Measures***

If a red snapper season is allowed, Amendment 28 proposes the following measures for the commercial sector:

- Opening date of second Monday in July. The season would end when the annual catch limit is projected to be met.
- Elimination of the current 20 inch minimum size limit during the fishing season.
- Commercial trip limit of 75 pounds gutted weight.

If a red snapper season is allowed, Amendment 28 proposes the following measures for the recreational sector:

- Opening date of second Friday in July. The season would only consist of weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). The end date would be announced at the same time the opening day is announced.
- Elimination of the current 20 inch minimum size limit during the fishing season.
- A recreational bag limit of one fish per person per day.

**Request for Comments**

Comments on Amendment 28 must be received no later than May 13, 2013, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries.

**How to Submit Comments**

You may submit comments either electronically or through mail. Comments received through other means may not be considered.

**Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal.

- Go to:

[www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0040](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0040)

- Click on “Comment Now!”. Complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- Attachments to electronic comments (up to 10 MB) will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**Mail:** Rick DeVictor

NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

All comments will be part of the public record, and generally posted for public viewing to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter, may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Anonymous comments will be accepted.

More information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Amendment 28, can be found online at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>.